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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/782,220	02/14/2001	Hideki Akiyama	24526	9695
20529	7590	11/02/2006	EXAMINER	
NATH & ASSOCIATES 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314			PHAM, THIERRY L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/782,220	AKIYAMA, HIDEKI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Thierry L. Pham	2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-2 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: RCE filed on 9/13/06 and Supplemental Response dated 10/6/06.
- Claims 1-2 are pending.
- Supplemental Response dated 10/6/06 with correct set of claims has been received and entered by the Examiner.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/13/06 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art, and Kurachi (U.S. 6181436), and further in view of Okuda et al (US 5671669).

Regarding claims 1-2, applicant admitted the prior art teaches a printer driver (fig. 1), provided at a host computer (host computer, page 2, lines 1-20) while said host computer is connected to a stencil printer (stencil printer, page 2, lines 1-20) printing machine through communications (communication between host computer and stencil printer, page 2, lines 1-20), for setting items of various conditions for said stencil printing

machine, wherein the various setting items (setting items, page 2, lines 2-5) for said printing conditions are displayed (fig. 1); a watermark (watermark settings, fig. 1) print item is selected on the setting items; and information on the items are transmitted, together with the print data (watermark settings and print data are transmitted to stencil printer, page 2, lines 2-20), to the stencil printing machine (applicant admitted the prior art teaches a stencil printer having “secret operation settings button” as show in fig. 1, page 2, lines 1-20).

Applicant’s admitted prior art does not teach printer’s features such as “secret operation settings” can be incorporated into the printer driver (which allows operator to control printer’s features via from a host computer) and if the printer driver determines that a watermark print is selected on the setting items, the printer driver automatically selects secret operation item and a number of copies to be printed.

Kurachi, in the same field of endeavor for printer driver, teaches a printer driver (printer driver, col. 7, lines 59-60) having “secret operation settings” (secret operation settings, col. 5, lines 4-10, col. 13, lines 55-62, col. 17, lines 8-25, and col. 26, lines 35-46) can be incorporated into the printer driver and if the printer driver determines that a watermark print (watermark print is widely known and available in the art) is selected on the setting items, the printer driver automatically selects secret operation item (setting defaults for automatically selecting certain features/functions are well known and widely available in the art, for example, printer driver as taught by Kurahi can be modified to automatically set secret operation settings upon selection of watermark settings) and a number of copies to be printed.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify applicant’s admitted prior art printer driver as per teachings of Kurachi by incorporating “secret operation features” onto printer driver because of a following reason and if the printer driver determines that a watermark print (watermark print is widely known and available in the art) is selected on the setting items, the printer driver automatically selects secret operation item: (●) to allow operators/users to control printer’s capabilities/features of the printer remotely; therefore, reduces operating costs; (●) security/confidential of print data can be secured from intruders

(Kurachi, col. 6, lines 29-30); (•) automatically defaults certain features/functions of printer driver helps reduce/prevent operators/users' errors.

However, combinations of applicant's admitted prior art and Kurachi fail to teach and/or suggest removing a used stencil sheet from a print drum and dispose of said used stencil sheet after print job has been printed.

Okuda, in the same field of endeavor for stencil printing, teaches a well-known example of removing a used stencil sheet from a print drum and dispose of said used stencil sheet after print job has been printed (col. 2, lines 15-40 and col. 3, lines 42-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify conventional stencil printing device to include a stencil discharge section for removing the used stencil sheet from the printing drum after printing (see abstract) as taught by Okuda to prevent unauthorized users from viewing confidential data by removing the used stencil sheet from the print drum after printing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine applicant's admitted art and Kurachi with Okuda to obtain the invention as specified in claims 1-2.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 4-6, filed 10/6/06, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-2 under 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art reference due to newly added features/limitations as cited in claims 1-2.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(•) US 6301013 to Momose et al, teaches an example of watermark print via printer driver (figs. 6-11).

(•) US 6621590 to Livingston, teaches an example of watermark print via printer driver (figs. 3-5) with print default settings, for example, a default message such as "secret",

shown in fig. 5 is incorporated into document 11 when a "print watermarks" box is checked (fig. 3a).

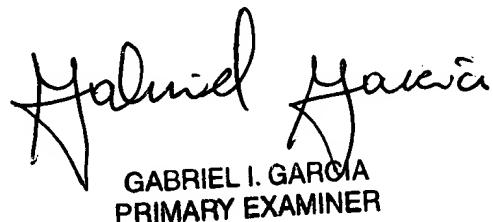
- (•) US 5704021 to Smith et al, teaches an example of printer driver wherein certain features are defaulted based upon selected printing conditions (i.e. error-diffusion halftoning technique 22 is automatically selected whenever a high resolution mode is selected, col. 6, lines 15-22 and col. 9, lines 29-56).
- (•) US 6396594 to French et al, teaches an example of printer driver with watermark settings.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL I. GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER